



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report*

Fall 2018

Administrator's Corner

The gift of History. Yes, history is an account of things said and done in the past. Each of us has a history. People are fascinated with the past, whether it is their own family history, the history of their community, the Civil War, Lewis and Clark, or the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. As our society grows more urban-suburban and complex, people long for unique and authentic opportunities to experience the natural and cultural heritage of special places. The NPNHT and Auto Tour Route has premier sites, settings, and experiences to offer. Yes, despite our successes with public programs, we still are not meeting the demand for quality heritage learning and tourism opportunities. At the same time we need to assure that decisions about public visitation do not compromise site integrity. One of our purposes is working with people and communities to identify opportunities to help them and get them involved. History serves us in many ways. It can inspire us with stories or caution us with tales of human wrongdoing. History can inform and educate us to make thoughtful decisions about the future. History has the power to delight and enrich us, enlarging and intensifying the experience of being alive. Partners are a vital part of everything we do; every exhibition, education program, trail opening, and cultural/historical event the NPNHT brings to the public is made possible because of partner support.



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Broncheau-McFarland

L-R: Sandra Broncheau-McFarland and Derek McFarland presenting information on the NPNHT.

I also hope you'll keep on helping us to continue opening eyes to the full story by becoming our new partner. Help us to assist others to better respect the significance and gain a more accurate understanding. Your support and bringing in more partners helps us tell the unique stories, traditions, culture, resilience and strength of all those involved in the events of 1877 and beyond. By recognizing that our greatest strength is people, we can be more effective and productive.

As we seek to engage the public in all of our endeavors, the NPNHT offers the keys to understanding that unique "sense of place" that can bring people together to help shape the future.

Autumn is a prime time on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). Enjoy the natural beauty of the changing seasons this fall.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." - John Quincy Adams

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT



November
2018



Volunteers Work to Mark Southern Nez Perce Trail

Since 2012, a small group of volunteers has been working with the Nez Perce -Clearwater National Forests, South Zone Archaeologist Steve Armstrong, to relocate and open the Southern Nez Perce Trail (SNPT) in the Magruder Corridor section of the Forest's Red River Ranger District.

In 2015, the group Friends of the Southern Nez Perce Trail applied for and received Challenge Cost Share funds from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail to assist with marking the route and replacing wooden signs that had been destroyed in recent fires.

The group felt that properly signing the trail would be critical to long term survival of this ancient travel route.

The goal of the project is to reopen this segment of historic travel route to provide for foot and horse travel on the Southern Nez Perce Trail before evidence of it is lost. The trail tread is especially vulnerable to loss, and difficult to identify in those locations where previous wildfires have burned over the trail.

This ancient route was used by the Nez Perce people for hundreds or thousands of years to access points east, including the buffalo hunting grounds in Montana. In historic times, this same trail was used by missionary Reverend Samuel Parker, by freighter Lloyd Magruder (who was robbed and killed along the trail in 1863), miners, and other people traveling across the rugged Bitterroot Mountains.

Previous efforts to sign the route of the Southern Nez Perce Trail were performed by a Boy Scout Troop from Grangeville around 1990. The Scouts signed the trail with small, wooden signs that have two wood-burned feathers on them (*photo above*). Many of these signs have fallen from the trees adjacent to the trail or have been burned by wildfires.

With the assistance of sawyers from the Red River Ranger District fire crews (*photo above*), several miles of the trail have been cleared of the numerous down trees that have fallen over the trail tread.

These volunteers will continue to locate and clear the trail in the future so that the trail's route is not lost.

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Public Affairs Staff and Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



U.S. Forest Service photo, Steve Armstrong



U.S. Forest Service photo, Steve Armstrong



U.S. Forest Service photo, Steve Armstrong

New trail markers like the one pictured in the lower right corner of these photos now mark several miles of the trail.



U.S. Forest Service photo, Steve Armstrong

An example of the "brushed/opened" segment of the SNPT with a newly installed trail marker sign. Crews are generally not cutting out the trail any wider than perhaps 3'...just enough to be able to see and use the SNPT tread.



Yellowstone 365 Group Visits Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Sites

Frank Smith is a self-described, “cancer survivor, Vietnam-era veteran, former volunteer photographer/naturalist at Rocky Mountain National Park, seasonal interpretive ranger in Yellowstone, many decades of activity leadership, and extensive experience in emergency services communications.”

Frank “Ballpark” Smith recently started the Yellowstone 365 Meetup group south central Montana. The focus of the group is being a Yellowstone National Park activity group. Activities include day hiking, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, photography, wildlife watching, and social events.

Frank contacted Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail staff earlier this summer and we provided him with information to share with other members of the group for their August trip, which Frank describes below.

On August 25, 2018, the Yellowstone 365 Meetup commemorated the Flight of the Nez Perce through Yellowstone National Park in August, 1877 with an all-day activity that began with a stop at the Nez Perce interpretive kiosk near Nez Perce Creek (*photo right*)



The group then hiked along Tangled Creek to the Cowan campsite where the Radersburg Party camped on the evening of August 23, 1877.

After lunch at the Madison Picnic Area, the group drove over to the east side of the Park, and visited the site where a Nez Perce scouting party entered the Helena Party’s camp and a gun battle ensued. In 1904, an interpretive sign commissioned by Hiram Chittenden was nailed to a tree on the knoll. The sign was rediscovered in 2006, after having not been seen since the 1970s. (*photo left*). The National Park Service Sign Shop in Mammoth created the replica in the photo above. The original sign was gently removed and now resides in the Heritage Research Center in Gardiner, where it is safe from collectors, falling trees, fire, and weather.

The group made a short detour on their return to the Grand Loop Road, which took them by the location of the historic Canyon Bear Feeding Grounds where visitors watched bears pawing through food scraps and other garbage gathered from hotels in the area each night in the 1920s and 1930s.

A quick stop in a pullout near Spurgin’s Beaver Slide and a wrap-up at the Nez Perce Ford Picnic Area capped a memorable day, filled with valuable history lessons.

For more information about this group visit: <https://www.meetup.com/Yellowstone-365/>

Information provided by Frank Smith



Yellowstone Meetup group at Cowan campsite



Travelers' Rest State Park Hosting Exhibit "The Journey of the Resilient Nez Perce People"

Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) is hosting a traveling exhibit, *The Journey of the Resilient Niimiipuu Nez Perce People*, at Travelers' Rest State Park in Lolo, MT. The exhibit, which opened on Thursday, October 18, will run through December 31, 2018. The Park visitor center is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST. The exhibit is in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act and incorporates many aspects of the thriving Nez Perce (Niimiipuu) culture.

The story of the Niimiipuu (Nez Perce) people stretches out across the landscape. It is embedded in places, names, and traditions. The Niimiipuu have faced many challenges during the past 150 years. Their history is one of disturbance, loss, and upheaval. But it is also one of resolve, adaptability, and strength. This exhibit chronicles the journey of the Niimiipuu and offers a glimpse into the living culture of the Niimiipuu today.

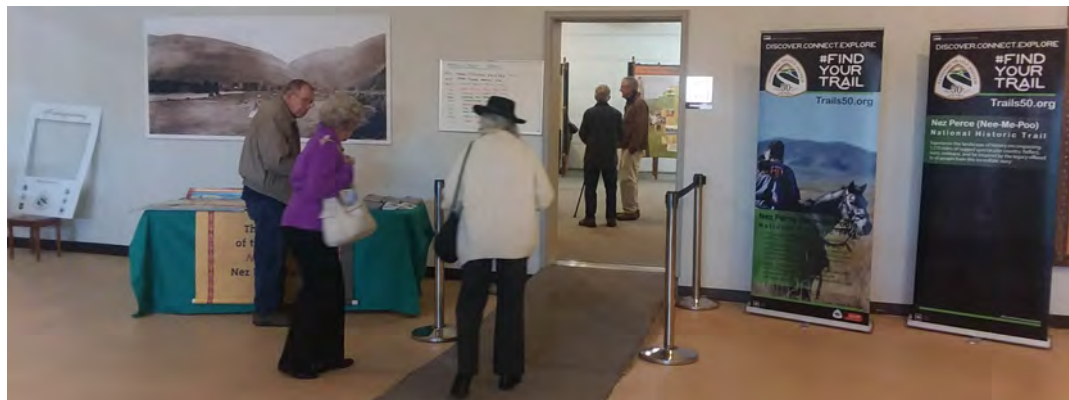
The exhibit is on loan from the Ravalli County Museum and Historical Society and was developed with support from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic (NPNHT), the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resources Program, Niimiipuu Language Program, and Niimiipuu Elders, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, First Security Bank, and the Jane S. Heman Foundation.

Winter Storytelling at Travelers' Rest celebrates the Salish tradition of sharing stories during the long, dark winter. We humans tell our stories in a variety of ways, and, in 2019, Travelers' Rest will welcome a diverse array of presenters who capture and share stories through oral tradition, poetry, history, memoir, and more. A complete schedule of storytellers will be posted on the [Park website](#) by the end of November, 2018.

Loren Flynn, Montana State Parks and Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



Visitors to Travelers' Rest State Park enjoying the traveling exhibit, *The Journey of the Resilient Niimiipuu Nez Perce People*.



An Evening with JR Spencer at Henry's Lake

Friday, August 24, 2018, was windy with dark clouds and probable rain. It was moving east over the Gravely Range toward Henry's Lake State Park, ID. JR Spencer entered the amphitheater dressed from head to toe in beaded traditional clothing and head dress of Native people. He immediately caught the attention of the crowd. Even the wind and rain paused to open up the sky for an unbelievable backdrop with Henry's Lake to the Northwest, Black Mountain to the North, and Targhee Pass to the Northeast. The earth stood still in anticipation. Approximately 85 people were gathered (our largest crowd to date) in the amber grass with complete stillness as JR spoke to us with reverence, humor, and in the traditions of his ancestors.

JR brought beautiful music to our ears with his traditional songs and skills on the flute and drum, taking us back in time while setting the stage for the future. He shared his Native culture through historic and living traditions, particularly of the Nez Perce (Niimípuu). He spoke reverently and briefly of the Nez Perce traveling through this territory. He spoke of the sacredness of his ancestors and thanked them for paving the way. Legends of spirit animals and shape shifters that have been passed down through generations were shared. His stories of past and present needed to be shared for us to better understand the future.

JR had us laughing at times and crying at other times, mesmerizing us throughout his presentation. He shared the importance of connecting spiritually to the land, the earth, the animals, and the air. We learned to treat them well and take care of them for generations to come. He provided the perfect balance of topic content mixed with music. His presentation was interesting, organized, uplifting, and well above our expectations. We were left with great peace and wanting more, and we did not want him to leave. Thank you, JR Spencer, for helping us see through different eyes.

By Nancy Willard, Henry's Lake State Park Staff



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Willard



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Willard

Honoring Veterans

We invite you to Honor our veterans on November 11 (Observed on November 12). This day offers us a chance to pause and thank the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters, brothers, sisters, colleagues, and friends-the more than 20 million, in all, who have put on a uniform to protect our freedoms. This year we commemorate the end of World War I, which occurred when the armistice was signed on the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. World War I gave American women their first opportunity to enlist in the military. They served with distinction and courage.

Veterans Day celebrates their service and sacrifice. There are numerous ways to honor those who served the country. Attend a local Veteran's Day program, parade or concert, participate in a flag raising ceremony, visit a veteran's hospital or send a thank-you letter to a veteran, or observe a moment of silence to remember those who gave their lives for the country. As we enter a season of Thanksgiving, there may be no better time to offer the vet in your life the gift of gratitude.



Nez Perce Mosaic: Blankets on tribal history and culture

Pendleton Woolen Mills to produce limited-edition blanket depicting the tribe's history and culture

By Eric Barker of the Lewiston Tribune

Pendleton Woolen Mills soon will begin producing a limited edition blanket depicting Nez Perce tribal history and culture.

The stunning design featuring symbols representative of the tribe — as well as tribal leaders, landscapes and battle sites associated with the War of 1877 — was designed by Terry Ball of Cascade, MT, in conjunction with tribal elders LeRoy Seth and Silas Whitman.

Ball, a standout collegiate basketball player for Washington State University from 1958 to 1962, spent four decades working as a salesman for Pendleton. Along the way, he developed an affinity for American Indian history and in particular, the tribes of the Columbia Basin.

He said the company has long had a robust relationship with American Indian tribes, as far as 1896, when the Nez Perce were the first tribe to order blankets from Pendleton.

"We have a deep history with Native Americans," he said.

The blanket features silhouettes of two peaks of the Wallowa Mountains as well as the Bear Paw Mountains in Montana where Chief Joseph and others eventually surrendered to the U.S. Cavalry after a series of battles that started at White Bird and extended across parts of Idaho and Montana. Chief Joseph is featured in the center of the blanket and flanked on his left by Chief Looking Glass and on the right by Chief White Bird.

Over Joseph's head, bolts of lightning cascade from storm clouds above the Wallows. Ball said they symbolize Joseph's tribal name, roughly translated as "Thunder Rolling Down the Mountain." All of the chiefs sit astride Appaloosa horses that were bred by the tribe. Joseph's horse has a handprint on his rump, and the other two horses have distinctive Appaloosa spots.

Beneath the chiefs are the skeleton tepees that stand at the Big Hole Battlefield as a monument and signify tribal members who were slaughtered there during an attack by the Cavalry. Under the tepees is a silhouette of the Bear Paw Mountains, with a bear paw prominently featured on one of the mountains.



Leroy Seth show his rolling block 45-70 rifle that was recovered from the battlefield and handed down to him from his father. Tribune/Photo Steve Hanks

Ball said he isn't doing it to make money but he hopes to at least break even on the venture. More importantly, he said, he hopes the blankets will help tell an important part of the Nez Perce history.

"I just want to do it to enhance the whole story," he said.



Pendleton Woolen Mills will produce this blanket designed by Terry Ball and Nez Perce elders LeRoy Seth and Silas Whitman featuring Nez Perce history and culture. Image Courtesy of the Pendleton Woolen Mills—Nez Perce Mosaic

The blanket is bordered on its top and bottom with geometric designs that represent the camas flower, an important staple of the tribe. The design features the color pink, representing the meat of salmon, purple for the camas plant and blue representing water and sky.

Seth's great-grandfather, the warrior Peopeo Tholekt, fought in the war and was among the Nez Perce who escaped to Canada after Joseph agreed to stop fighting. He said he is delighted with the way the design turned out and believes the blanket will be a big seller.

"There are all kinds of people saying they are ready to buy. Some are tribal members, some are members of other tribes," he said. "I'm sure the (Clearwater River) Casino will want to have one in their main display area, and the tribal council should have one on their wall."

Ball said Pendleton is in the process of setting up looms to make the blankets, and they likely will be available in four to six months. He is fronting the money for the production of 250 blankets and will be responsible for selling them. He said he is likely to sell blankets to Nez Perce tribal members and museums for about \$190 and to others for \$300.

Eric Barker may be contacted at ebarker@lmtribune.com



Archeology along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail

by Daniel H. Eakin & Elizabeth James

Originally published in *Yellowstone Science*, September 2018

Due to space constraints we have only published part of this article. For the full article please visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/archeology-nez-perce-national-historic-trail.htm>

About 84 miles of the NPNHT is within Yellowstone National Park (YNP). Beginning in 2006, the National Park Service undertook a multi-year archeological inventory project along the Nez Perce trail through the park. These efforts not only identified locations of several Nez Perce, U.S. Army, and tourist encampments, but also clarified the general route the Nez Perce followed through the area.

Even though there were no major military engagements within YNP, several incidents did occur between the Nez Perce and civilian tourist groups and ranchers, as well as Bannock scouts employed by the army.

On August 23, 1877, the Nez Perce entered YNP via the Madison River near present-day West Yellowstone. The main contingent followed the Madison and Firehole rivers to Lower Geyser Basin then crossed the Central Plateau and Hayden Valley, forded the Yellowstone River, continued around the north shore of Yellowstone Lake and traversed the rugged terrain through the Absaroka Mountain Range, probably exiting the park sometime between September 4-6. Their route likely followed pre-existing trails for much of the way. Howard's army followed essentially the same route as the Nez Perce and often occupied their same campsites until the Yellowstone River, at which point

they turned north in an attempt to intercept the Nez Perce somewhere on Clark's Fork on the east side of the Absaroka mountains. Once reaching Barronett's Bridge, the army followed the road to the Cooke City mines through the Lamar Valley and then crossed the divide to the upper Clark's Fork. During this time, however, Nez Perce raiding and scouting parties were active and headed north into Mammoth Hot Springs, Stephens Creek, Lamar Valley, and the Clark's Fork. Twenty-two tourists also came into contact with the Nez Perce within the park. All were robbed, several were shot, two were killed and a number captured, including some who were used as guides.

Focus on Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research

YNP consulted with descendants of the non-treaty groups who participated in the 1877 war. They shared oral histories of the ordeal and information on traditional knowledge and use of the Yellowstone region unavailable through other sources, such as areas their ancestors may have been selected as campsites. As archeologists, we use this information not only to assist in locating sites related to the 1877 events, but also to incorporate



National Park Service photo

Nez Perce Chief White Hawk (left) and Many Wounds in YNP in 1935. White Hawk was with the main group of Nez Perce in 1877.

concerns of Nez Perce through proactive management and stewardship of these important places.

Nez Perce elders reported that prior to 1877, their people used the area that is now YNP to hunt, trap, fish, trade, and visit with other tribal groups, such as the Crow and Shoshone. Their leaders used routes that they had learned from their elders. They knew park terrain and Camp deployed advanced scouting parties as well as rear guard to avoid capture by the army. They would read the land to determine where important resources were, and camp near water and grass for their horses (Sucec 2006). In such situations only wickiups, a lodge consisting of a frame covered with matting or brush, would have been constructed and used by traveling Nez Perce. They also stated that trees were stripped of their edible cambium if the group was short of food. Elders confirmed that several scarred trees near the Yellowstone River reflect cambium harvesting. Hydrothermal areas were used for their curative powers and to give an extra edge for success in their activities.

Working with the Park archivist and Park historian, NPS staff reviewed all potential sources of information and compiled relevant historical documents, maps, first- and second-hand army, civilian, and Nez Perce accounts; newspaper articles; soldiers' journals; photographs; and written collections. The information provided a rich historical background and context for events in YNP. These Nez Perce oral histories and historical accounts were analyzed to identify likely candidate locations for the 1877 events within the 84 miles of the trail within YNP.

These data were valuable aids during archeological fieldwork and in several instances helped tie historical events to specific locations in the modern landscape. Archeological survey was conducted between 2006 and 2015 by the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist Survey Section, National Park Service archeologists and student interns, the University of Calgary, and members of the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation along with a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trails. Once designated search areas were identified, we looked for objects dating to an 1877 temporal context that could have been used by military, civilian, and/or Nez Perce. These included such items as horse tack, clothing items (military insignia, buttons, buckles, suspenders, etc.), mess equipment (forks, knives, spoons, etc.), and food remains (tin cans, etc.). Prehistoric sites composed of chipped stone and ground-stone tools were also recorded. Given the relatively late occurrence of the Nez Perce War, a vast array of metal objects had been incorporated into Nez Perce material culture, and an assortment of similar items would have been used by the U.S. Army and civilian participants as well. Park research permits allowed us to collect diagnostic artifacts for further analysis and conservation. Blaze marks, axe-cut stumps, hearth remnants, and other modifications to the local environment were also recorded.



Radersburg Party Camp & Wagon Abandonment Site

Few artifacts were identified at the Cowan Party camp on Tangled Creek. The opposite holds true for Camp Cowan, which had high artifact densities representing later occupation which may be the result of it being used by many different parties over time, as well as a large Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the 1930s. However, a cluster of temporally diagnostic historic artifacts located near Morning Mist Springs is consistent with the location where the Radersburg party was forced to abandon their wagons. Three roller buckles, a harness terret, and a snap hook could represent remains of the wagon harness observed by Fisher in 1877. Similarly, George and Emma Cowan's accounts by sketches and a journal indicate the party had writing implements, perhaps pens with extra nibs, and the nib found could have been one of these. A full length, brass Parker Brother's shotshell was recovered that possessed attributes indicating that it was made between 1874 and 1877. Cowan and Oldham later filed deprecation claims against the U.S. Government and the Nez Perce tribe for losses they incurred during these events. A number of items recovered from this site may relate to specific items and property types listed in Cowan's claim. Items range from a breech loading shotgun to horse tack and breechings and other items specifically listed in their claims such as blankets and clothing, as well as unspecified items probably grouped under "provisions" likely confiscated by the Nez Perce. These actions reflect the severe lack of material goods that the Nez Perce were suffering due to the conditions of open warfare, with no source of resupply.

The Nez Perce Mountain Bivouac Site

Another success of this project was identification of perhaps the only known intact Nez Perce campsite within the Park related to the 1877 war and flight. Located near the headwaters of the Lamar River 25 miles into the back country at an elevation of nearly 10,000 ft., this site probably represents the last bivouac of the main group of Nez Perce within YNP.

The site was first investigated in 1961 by Aubrey Haines, Ken Feyhl, and Stuart Conner, who found numerous flaked stone tools and debitage, historical artifacts, and evidence of bark stripping and axe-cuts on a number of trees, interpreted as possibly resulting from harvesting pitch wood for kindling. Period artifacts recovered include an assortment of metal objects as well as brass, iron, and wood components of a pre-1874-pattern McClellan saddle, culturally modified trees, and preserved lodge poles.

Efforts to recover the saddle were undertaken in 2015, requiring materials necessary to safely stabilize and transport the saddle remnants back for conservation and study. A total of 29 saddle parts were recovered from a 1x2-m excavation unit. Portions recovered include most of the iron reinforcing and fastener hardware from a pre-1874 Pattern McClellan saddle along with numerous pieces of wooden saddle tree and several remnants of leather strapping (photos below). In addition, three .44-40 WCF cartridge cases were found a few meters from the saddle parts.

The McClellan saddle was not considered a highly desirable prize by Native Americans, probably due to the fact that many tribes designed and manufactured their own saddles. In many cases when an army saddle was captured by Indians, it was stripped of its leather covering, hardware, and stirrups after which it would sometimes be salvaged; but in many cases it was merely abandoned.

Several .44-40 WCF cartridge cases were also found in areas A and B. The .44-40 WCF was chambered for the model 1873 Winchester and was introduced that same year. By 1877, the Model 1873 Winchester had become a popular weapon among various tribes of the Plains and Rocky Mountains. Considering .44-40 WCF cartridge cases were at the Big Hole and Bear Paw battlefields, it is safe to assume this particular type of weapon and ammunition were in possession of the Nez Perce during the Nez Perce War.

Culturally modified trees are trees possessing physical alterations that reflect human utilization of forested ecosystems, and many were observed within the forests near the site. These include both axe-cut (pole size) stumps and a number that had been stripped of large sheets of bark, probably for cambium recovery. The presence of 1870s-period military and non-military artifacts at the site further corroborates the tree-ring analysis, indicating the site likely functioned as a Nez Perce bivouac during the 1877 Flight.



McClellan saddle cante arc and plate from a McClellan saddle, recovered from the Nez Perce Mountain Bivouac Site (48YE506). Photo courtesy of the Office of Wyoming State Archaeologist.

National Park Service photo



National Park Service photos



Artifacts identified as part of a pre-1874 McClellan pattern saddle. Clockwise: cante plates, pommel ornament, front ring staple, foot staple, and rear ring staple.



Although none of the artifacts found during the investigations at the mountain bivouac site can be associated with any particular Native American group, it remains highly likely that these items were brought to the site by the Nez Perce and abandoned upon their departure. Similarly the McClellan saddle parts probably originated as property stolen from the army, as such instances were common during the Indian War period. The association of these items with cans and other goods would also be consistent with property the Nez Perce obtained through raiding of both civilian and military sources. Some Nez Perce may have possessed canned and other goods procured by scouting and raiding parties actively foraging for needed items. Some items, however, such as chinaware, “costly male and female wearing apparel,” and Richardson and Robbins plum pudding, might have been relatively rare in the region at the time. One potential source for such items is listed as “A quantity of provisions and clothing belonging to claimant and his wife,” of the value of \$350.00 on lines 12 and 15 of the deprecation claim filed in 1892 by George Cowan (Radersburg tourist party) for property losses incurred on August 24, 1877.

The mountain bivouac site could have been occupied by the main group of Nez Perce or a splinter group, or it could have been a rendezvous point for multiple groups after taking different routes through YNP. Archival information indicates the Nez Perce camped in this area sometime between September 4 and 6, 1877. Considering the number of people and horses that would have comprised the main group, it is quite possible (especially if they occupied the area for several days) that the Nez Perce were spread over a fairly large area to assure ready access to water, wood, and grass, with the current site area representing only a fraction of the area actually occupied. When P.W. Norris first rode through the camp in 1880, there was evidently an intriguing pattern of standing and collapsed lodges with a noticeable amount of debris of European American origin that he attributed to raids by Indian groups. The association of the stolen goods and perishable material with the standing and collapsed lodges undoubtedly conveyed a feeling of tragedy to the situation. Today the site lies in wilderness that has changed little since the Nez Perce camped there in 1877.

Moving Forward

Archeological research enabled the identification of a segment of the route taken by the Nez Perce as they crossed the Absaroka Mountains to continue on their journey northward. Working with the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail managers in 2017, the NPS formerly incorporated this segment of their journey into the pedestrian Commemorative Trail Route so visitors can honor the experience of the Nez Perce. The Park looks forward to continuing to tell the story of the 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce, including the multiple routes used by the various U.S. Army units; Nez Perce scouting parties led by Hímiin Maqsmáqs (Yellow Wolf) and Kosooyen and other Nez Perce splinter groups; and the civilian Radersburg and Helena parties, as well as other civilian encounters in the Park.

There are many cultural resources along the trail, and it is up to us to preserve and protect the trail and its sites for those who come after us. Archeological sites are non-renewable, in that once disturbed they cannot be replaced or repaired and when damaged, important information is lost forever. Natural and historic sites should be left undisturbed for all who visit, as it is an important part of our heritage.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the Yellowstone Park Foundation (now Yellowstone Forever), National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service for supporting this project. We also wish to thank the Office of Wyoming State Archaeologist, University of Wyoming, and tribal elders from the Nez Perce Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation who were able to collaborate in the field on this project, and the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Reservation who consulted on this project.



Other items held in the Yellowstone National Park collection related to the Nez Perce in in Yellowstone in 1877, including part of a recently recovered McClellan saddle and a historic Park sign related to the capture of the Cowan Party. *U.S. Forest Service photos, Roger Peterson*





Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this fall to be a safe one.

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>

Also check weather reports and call ahead for road conditions at 511.

There are links to a number of [webcams](#) from the NPNHT website.

The NPNHT Auto Tour Route includes a variety of road surfaces (paved, gravel, and dirt). Please be sure to consult a map before embarking on your NPNHT trip.

Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage.

Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the posted speed limit.

Native American History Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. Although we are glad to have America declare this month to honor and recognize the extraordinary Native American History including the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail's (NPNHT) history, heritage, and achievements, we are also reminded of the pride we feel at the NPNHT Program, knowing that we work on this year long. It is impossible to fully honor the history and heritage of such diverse peoples over thousands of years and square miles, in a comprehensive way in just one month.

This is important because the stories we're telling need to be told and shared. Without them, our American Trail story is incomplete. Think back to what you learned about the Flight of 1877 in school. Sadly, in many schools the situation has not improved much. Many Americans still grow up with misconceptions about this time period, then carry them throughout their entire lives.

This month we also recognize the immeasurable contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives who serve in the armed forces at five times the national average.

That's why we've chosen to observe Native American Month in a way that will have a lasting impact, through education. Stay tuned to our website as to programs that will be going on this month and beyond.

Sandra Broncheau- McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT

UPCOMING Events:



November 2018 — National Native American Heritage Month

November 11, 2018 — Veterans Day Weekend (fees waived at National Public Lands Agencies)

December 1, 2018 — Annual Bead Bazaar, [Nez Perce National Historical Park](#), Spalding, ID, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST

December 30-31, 2018 — Renegades Celebration and Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID

January-March, 2019 — Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#)

February 10-13, 2019—Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



NPTF Summer Educational Trail Tour Yellowstone National Park to Bear Paw Battlefield

Between August 3 and August 9, 2018, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) conducted our annual summer education tour. During this tour educators spent a week along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) learning about the 1877 war and flight and developing lesson plans to take back to their classrooms.

Before arriving at West Yellowstone, I stayed one night at Henry's Lake. The following morning, I drove around the lake and located the Sawtell Ranch site on the north shore. Several buildings are still present, although in the predictable weathered condition of 130+ years. General Howard camped at this location while obtaining supplies from Virginia City to the north. The lake level has risen considerably due to a dam constructed in the early 1900's, but the location of the ranch is far enough from the shoreline that it was not affected. The original campsite of the fleeing Nez Perce would, however, be located under approximately 12 feet of water at this time. It was located on the southeast shoreline of the lake.

All students who enrolled through Montana State University Northern (MSUN) arrived at the specified reserved campsites at Bridge Bay Campground in Yellowstone National Park. Participants included Duane Heglie, (instructor), Karen Heagen (co-instructor), Vanessa Davis, Heidi Puttalaz, David Godby, Lew Johnson, Steve and Pat Addiego, and John Hansen.

Instructors held evening orientation meeting for introductions, itinerary discussion, required reading, historical site visitation, schedules, and hiking plans during the next four days while in Yellowstone.

A hike was conducted to the Radersburg/Cowan campsite/Nez Perce encounter site near the Firehole River. The group hiked approximately 2.25 miles over low terrain to the vicinity of the camp followed by a discussion of relevance of Nez Perce scouts (Yellow Wolf) and subsequent capture of the tourists.

A visit was also made to Nez Perce Creek and the easterly route of the Nez Perce exiles towards Mary Mountain, which they traveled along with the members of the captured Cowan Party.

The group also received an evening visit from Kendall Piccolo, son of Ted Piccolo (Joseph Band descendant, from Elmer City, WA). Kendall shared a talk circle, dinner, and campsite with the NPTF tour participants. Kendall was presented with a walking stick as a gift. Kendall presented Duane with an eagle feather.

Students then traveled to Mammoth Hot Springs area to identify area where Henry Dietrich (survivor of the Helena party) was shot in the doorway of the McCartney Hotel (no longer a visible structure) from the adjacent eastern butte. They also took in the Park Visitor Center and Military buildings located at Mammoth Hot Springs. Next they hiked to the location of Baronette's Bridge and identified the remaining wooden structure on the east side of the Yellowstone River. This bridge was burned by a Nez Perce raiding party but rebuilt by General Howard's troops. A circular hiking route was taken following the remnants of the old wagon road and homestead site of Colin Jack Baronette. During the hike they had a brief encounter with a black bear.



A hike to Otter Creek area exposed students to the site where members of yet another tourist party encountered a Nez Perce raiding party. A wooden identification sign is still visible at the top of the hill. A carved cross in a large ponderosa pine is still visible, with the crosspiece showing recovering tree growth. This was the original location of the burial site of Charles Kenck, who was killed during the encounter and whose body was later exhumed and taken to Virginia City.

Our tour then departed Yellowstone National Park via Cooke City, MT, and the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway and the Crandall Creek exit route area. We explored Sunlight Creek and the valley to identify several exit routes of the Nez Perce. The group visited Dead Indian Gorge, Dead Indian Hill, Paint Creek, and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Canyon Gateway. We stopped at the interpretive kiosk at the summit and the NPTF metal sculpture which was in good condition (*photo left*)



Summer Education Tour group at YNP NPNHT Interpretive sign near Nez Perce Creek.

Photo Courtesy of Karen Hagen NPTF

Photo Courtesy of Karen Hagen NPTF



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Traveling east the next stop was at the Clarks Canyon where we observed the exit route of the Nez Perce, and identified the approximate area where Colonel Sturgis had been camped to intercept and engage the Nez Perce; he prematurely left the site to travel south and missed the entire group as they exited the canyon. We then followed the northeast course of the Nez Perce towards the Laurel/ Billings, MT, area and the fording area of the Yellowstone River. We traveled north along Canyon Creek to the opening of the canyon; stopping at the interpretative structure (*photo below*) and assessed its condition. The group also visited the Laurel Visitors Center to leave NPTF brochures and check on the progress of NPNHT kiosks, the chamber is still working with the city to develop the area where these signs can be placed in the future.

We entered Canyon Creek and proceeded approximately 2 miles into the canyon. The group also identified possible exit routes (primarily two side canyons leading to the plains above) before proceeding north on the Buffalo Trail Road to where it intersects with Highway 3 near Broadview/Lavina, MT. The route closely follows the Trail through Molt, MT, and the location where Crow Indians stole horses from the rear of the Nez Perce caravan.

Continuing north to Highway 12 and Ryegate, MT, we stopped at the commemorative plaque recognizing the NPNHT before traveling east to Harlowton, while paralleling Musselshell River.

We then proceeded north on Highway 191 through Judith Gap, MT, and continued on via Highway 87 to Lewistown, MT, where we camped. The Reed and Bowles Trading Post had been dismantled for an archeological research study by the Montana Historical Society, but participants did view the general area and location.

The next day we continued northward and eastward through Hilger/Roy, MT, and acrossed the Missouri River at the James Kipp Recreation Area. The group identified the direction and upstream location of Cow Island location (Nez Perce fording area of the Missouri area) and events that took place there in 1877.

Traveling north to Hays, MT, and via 3 Buttes Road, Peoples Creek Road, and Cleveland Road we reached the Bears Paw Battlefield and the participants received a briefing before hiking the battlefield. We also visited the Blaine County Museum and viewed the presentation film and displays of artifacts from the battle.

The next day we rendezvoused with National Park Service (NPS) Ranger Casey Overturf (*photo left*) and received a personal tour/narration of the battlefield in the morning which included walking the entire battlefield trail system and interpretive sites. By eleven o'clock that morning temperatures in north central Montana reached 100 degrees.



Photo Courtesy of Karen Heagen, NPTF

We viewed many NPNHT Trail highway signs along the route; all were in good condition and appropriately positioned to identify the Trail along the route. I distributed the NPTF brochures where appropriate along the entire route.

On my return journey, I visited Palouse Falls in Eastern Washington. Located approximately 12 miles upstream from the confluence of the Snake and Palouse Rivers sits the small enclave of Riparia, WA, located on the north bank of the Snake. This area is where the railroad turned eastward and took the Christian Nez Perce to the reservation at Lapwai for resettlement in 1885. Chief Joseph, and those remaining members who chose to accompany him, were marched northward to Fort Spokane and later, Nespelem, WA, for resettlement. The original stone railroad bridge supports are still visible on both sides of the Snake River; however, later grading and roadbed construction has all but destroyed the lay of the actual rail bed and tracks. No evidence of tracks remain, either rails or railroad ties. The area is remote and does not service many people, other than to provide locals a river crossing at the Little Goose Dam upstream. Further downstream, the Lyons Ferry State Park area caters to boaters and fishermen on a regular basis. Visitors pass through that area on their way to view Palouse Falls, the official waterfall of Washington State. The general area is appropriate for a memorial plaque or historical marker indicating the history of the Nez Perce, their return to the Northwest, and the division of the bands at this location.

Karen Heagen, President, NPTF



Photo Courtesy of Karen Heagen, NPTF





News From the National Park Service: Nez Perce National Historical Park

The summer has drawn to a close and marks the end of another successful season. We would like to recognize the retirement of long time Museum Technician Linda Paisano. During her 27 years in the National Park Service, Linda was a steady presence with a strong knowledge of the museum collection. She will be missed and we wish her and her family all the best. We would also like to say thank you to our Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corps (CBYCC) who helped inventory invasive plant species at Weippe Prairie and conduct range inventory of the White Bird Battlefield.



This season we held a few notable events and programs. In August there was a special Night Sky program to view the Perseid Meteor Shower. This annual celestial event provides star gazers an opportunity to see shooting stars without the aid of a telescope. This year we were fortunate to have the assistance of Mr. David Eberle, a NASA Solar System Ambassador and local elementary school teacher. It was an enjoyable and informative time for all. Tribal member Kevin Peters provided flute carving demonstrations on two Saturdays during the month. The demonstrations were well received by visitors and his knowledge and artistic skills were appreciated by all.

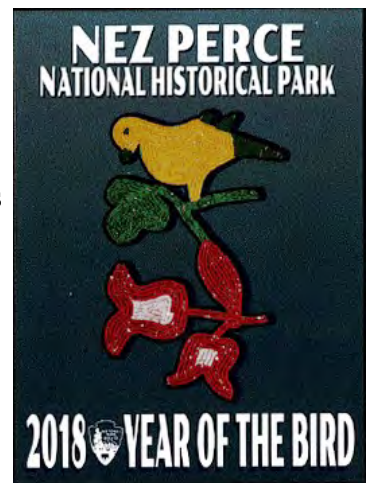


Volunteers, along with park staff, participated in the 25th Annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event this past September. NPLD is the largest volunteer event on public lands and this year's project involved the planting of Milkweed in the Spalding Picnic Area. There was also a special visit by the Washington State University Raptor Club, who came with an array of "live" birds of prey. The event was very well attended and visitors had the unique opportunity to see these birds up close and learn how they survive in the wild.

Our Maintenance division has been busy keeping the different park sites in great order. Two significant projects were the cleaning and repointing of the rock wall at the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite in Joseph, OR, and residing and trimmed the siding of the White Bird Battlefield overlook shelter (*photos left*). This was the first of several planned improvements for the White Bird Battle site.

During the summer the National Park Service assessed several Park areas including the visitor center at Spalding, White Bird Battlefield, Heart of the Monster, and Canoe Camp to identify ways to improve services and accessibility throughout the Park. An interdisciplinary team consisting of accessibility specialists, landscape architects, and Park Service staff documented existing Park accessibility barriers and identified solutions for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs.

To mark the end of the "Year of the Bird" celebration the park is holding a photo contest. This is the final event that the park will hold for the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If you are interested, submit one of your original photographs of birds taken in their natural habitat on public lands. Details and submissions can be found on the Park's Facebook page. The Park has special stickers available celebrating the centennial (*image right*).



The visitor center is open daily and all programs, events, and presentations are free. For information regarding future events please contact the Park at 208-843-7009.

Brett Spaulding, Supervisory Park Ranger, Nez Perce National Historical Park





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

As the days grow shorter and the nights become colder, the Battlefield will move into its winter time schedule. Beginning Thursday, November 1, 2018, the Visitor Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily. This will allow staff time to plow roads, shovel sidewalks, and get the place ready for all to enjoy. Starting November 19 the Big Hole Battlefield Visitor Center will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays until March 26, 2019. A visitation analysis was conducted and found that visitation to the Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center is exceptionally low between November and March.

As we approach the holidays the staff at Big Hole have much to be thankful for. This past summer we had an amazing seasonal staff consisting of five volunteers (Ramona DeGeorgio, Peter Devlin, Fred Bradshaw, Preston Gill and Maria Falvo), a seasonal Park Ranger (Larry Mink), and a long-term Student Conservation Association inter (Anna Killian). Our visitation was up this year and everyone contributed to the overall success of our summer. So hats off to our very own *Dream Team*.

Along those same lines we



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

need to give a shout out to our wonderful presenters that contributed to our Summer Speaker Series. This year we were able to host seven presentations at Big Hole and for the first time we had one at Bear Paw. The speakers this year were: Pete Wilson, Priscilla Arthur, Leroy Seth, Silas Whitman, Darrel Wheeler, Naomi Wood (*photo above*), Bob Brown, Mike Penny with Nez Perce Nation Drum, and Don Safford. Thanks to all of you for another wonderful year and thanks to our cooperating association Glacier National Park Conservancy for sponsoring our Summer Speaker Series.

For the facility side of things, some of the projects completed this summer/fall included: removal of willow encroachment on the east side fence line, replacement of the cattle guard at the front entrance, removal of hazard trees from the visitor use areas, replacement of our boiler/water tank (that heats part of the Visitor Center) with high efficiency units and painting of the vault toilet at Bear Paw (*photos right*).

Overall it has been a very productive year and we look forward to winter in all of its splendor.

Mandi Wick Superintendent/Montana Unit Manager



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service





News From the Forest Service

Lolo National Forest

Approximately, 15.5 miles of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is located within the Lolo Creek U.S. Highway 12 drainage managed by the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The NPNHT on the Forest is divided into seven distinct management areas between Graves Creek and the Montana/Idaho border. During the 2018 field season (April thru September), the NPNHT Ranger maintained the Trail, the Highway 12



interpretive corridor, the facilities that directly support the use of the NPNHT (historic sites, campgrounds, picnic areas, public restrooms), and also provided interpretive information about the NPNHT to the public. The NPNHT Ranger, along with the NPNHT funded Weed Technician, also monitored the trail for new weed invaders, removed (pulled) weeds from trail access points, and treated weed infestations along the trail and at recreation sites. Collateral duties included: conducting visitor compliance checks, dispersed campsite maintenance, travel plan management and monitoring, and dumpsite clean-up. The NPNHT Ranger worked throughout the field season to ensure the best service to the public.

To alleviate over signing, trail markers were removed in areas where the public could see multiple markers from one location or the trails existence was obvious. During the field season maintenance was provided on 204 NPNHT markers and travel management signs (*photo left*).

NPNHT Trail Maintenance: The NPNHT Ranger along with assistance from the Missoula trail crew cleared a total of 92 trees from the trail. Where practical, trees

that could be easily be stepped over were left on site in order to meet trail maintenance standards to maintain the feel of a historic trail.

The purpose of the 2018 Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) noxious and invasive weed species project was to treat weed infestations along the 15.5 miles of NPNHT located on the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The most heavily infested segments of the trail and trailheads were treated with herbicide, hand pulling, and/or mechanically treated in order to preserve the trail's natural/primitive condition, as well as to reduce the future spread of invasive weed species along the Trail.

This season the NPNHT Ranger came in contact with hundreds of visitors from all walks of life. Visitors often commented on how well-maintained the historic site, campgrounds, and interpretive sites were kept, and they were frequently interested in knowing more about the NPNHT and its history. Most of the visitors to the NPNHT sites were traveling by car or RV, but there were also many people, both local and from across the country, touring the area on bicycle or foot.

Graves Creek Meadow Illegal OHV Use:

The Graves Creek meadow was damaged by illegal OHV use during the summer and with the help of a local Eagle Scout group approximately 200 yards of three strand T-Post fencing were installed to help prevent future off road use. The NPNHT Ranger coordinated with the scout troop to ensure installation of a high quality defensible fence (*photos right*).

In an effort to maintain riparian habitat along Lolo Creek and to provide the public with a more sustainable dispersed recreation corridor, the Missoula Ranger District undertook rehabilitation of the three Highway 12 roadside dispersed camping areas. Rocks were placed near the road to concentrate vehicle traffic to a smaller more durable area while still allowing non-motorized public access to Lolo Creek and surrounding National Forest Lands.

Al Hilshey, Natural Resource Specialist, Missoula Ranger District, and Katie Knotek, Recreation Staff, Lolo National Forest



Alex Romanko, 2018 NPNHT Ranger, replacing fire rings.



U.S. Forest Service photo

U.S. Forest Service photos





News From the Forest Service Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Lolo Pass Visitor Center

It has been a beautiful and busy fall up at Lolo Pass Visitor Center. The colors along the trails, roads, and hillsides have been outstanding. The Visitor Center hosted two volunteers from Texas, David and Judy Kay (*photos right*), for two months this summer. With their help, we were able to complete staining and re-chinking on several of our historic and modern log facilities. In September, the visitor center welcomed volunteer Dennis May, our Lewis and Clark history buff. He will be sharing his knowledge with Visitors thru mid-October. On a crisp and cloudy morning, September 24, Lolo Pass saw our first snow of the season. It was only a skiff, but it brought happy fall feelings from the Lolo Pass Visitor Center staff.

This fall the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest held a successful joint volunteer work day with the Lolo National Forest to clear and sign the Old Lee Creek trail for non-motorized winter recreation. Be sure to check it out this winter. It should be a great ungroomed ski for winter visitors.

Buffie Cerutti, Manager
Lolo Pass Visitor Center
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest



U.S. Forest Service photos



How to Contact Us:

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Administration

12730 Highway 12
Orofino, Idaho 83544
(208) 476-8334
sjbroncheaumcfarland@fs.fed.us

Nez Perce National Historic Trail Public Affairs

Building 26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 329-3540
rmpeterson@fs.fed.us

CP Revision Coordinator

Building 26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 329-3288
rdomsalla@fs.fed.us

General e-mail: npnht@fs.fed.us

CP Revision e-mail: npnht-CMP-rev@fs.fed.us

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/npnht>



www.fs.usda.gov/npnht

Autumn Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Travelers' Rest State Park, MT
Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



NPNHT Central Idaho
Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, U.S. Forest Service photo



NPNHT Central Idaho
Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, U.S. Forest Service photo



Pompeys Pillar, near Billings, MT
Ann Boucher, BLM photo



Find **YOUR** Trail
Discover. Connect. Explore.



treadlightly!
ON LAND AND WATER



RESPECTED IS OPEN **ACCESS**

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.”

